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# GAIN Report

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## Japan

### Solid Wood Products

## The Tokyo Lumber Terminal Reflects Changing Demands in the Japanese Wood Marketplace 2004

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**Report Highlights:**

Engineered and kiln dried wood products coming into the Tokyo Lumber Terminal (TLT) in 2003 represented 54.5% of total imports, exceeding 50% for the first time. The leading foreign supplier was Canada, followed by Germany, China, Finland and the U.S. U.S. imports were 19,000 m3, a 23% increase from the previous year.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Tokyo [JA1]  
[JA]

In response to higher building standards and more discriminating consumers, the share of engineered and kiln dried wood products coming into the Tokyo Lumber Terminal (TLT) in 2003 was 54.5%, exceeding 50% for the first time, according to the Japan Forest Products Journal (4 Feb. 2004). This is up from 48.2% from the previous year.

The leading foreign supplier was Canada, followed by Germany, China, Finland and the U.S. While Canada remains the market leader, both Canada and the U.S. lost market share to other major suppliers.

In addition to raw building materials, most of the products are either KD laminating core stock, eventually to be converted into laminated building materials, or already manufactured products like plywood, OSB (Oriented Strand Board) structural panels, LVL (Laminated Veneer Lumber), and MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard). The demand for more stable building materials is in response to long-term product warranty requirements on new houses.

Other notable developments at TLT in 2003 include,

- Total imports in 2003 are up 16.7% from 2002 to 845,906 m3;
- KD imports were up 21% in 2003 to 316,898 m3;
- Imports of engineered wood products were up 75% in 2003 to 111,703 m3;
- Imports of green lumber (not dried wood, with a higher moisture content) were up 2% in 2003 to 383,863 m3;

	Imports in 2003	Percentage Change from 2002
U.S.	19,100 m3	23.8%
Canada	582,700 m3	4.5%
Germany	84,800 m3	66.6%
China	38,900 m3	127.5%
Finland	30,370 m3	59.1%

The TLT was built in 1973 in Tokyo Bay with good logistical access to the Tokyo metropolitan area, the largest housing market and where more than 10% of Japan's population lives. TLT is "showcase" of Japanese wood and building product imports from around the world.

End of Report.